



ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ
ЕҚЫҰ ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ТҰРАҚТЫ ӨКІЛДІГІ

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE

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**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan,
Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov
in response to the EU and USA statements on the term of office of the
President in Kazakhstan
at the 846th Permanent Council meeting
13 January 2011**

We took note of the statements by EU and US delegations on the term of office of the President of Kazakhstan.

In this regard, we would like to draw attention of the delegations to the following:

Initiation of the Referendum is a Constitutional right of the citizens of Kazakhstan fixed by Article 11 of the Law "On the Republican Referendum" of 1995. On 27 December 2010 the Central Election Committee (CEC) has officially registered the proposal of the initiating group on the prolongation of the mandate of the President of Kazakhstan till 6 December 2020.

According to the procedures, the proposal on holding the referendum together with the final minutes on the results of the signatures collection have to be submitted to the President of Kazakhstan within one month from the moment of receiving the documents from the initiating group. And according to the Law, the President may accept or decline the initiative.

On 6 January 2011 senators of the Parliament asked the President of Kazakhstan to approve a people's initiative. However, President Nazarbayev has immediately issued a decree rejecting the referendum plan.

Nevertheless, on 12 January the initiating group has submitted to the Central Election Committee the minutes on the results of the signatures collection indicating that in favor of the referendum there were over 5 mln. people. Whereas, according to the Law, the initiating group had to collect not less 200 000 signatures from the moment of receiving the certificate of registration in the CEC of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

On the same day the initiating group called for the Parliament of the Kazakhstan to put on the agenda of the Parliament's meeting the issue of prolongation of the mandate of the President of Kazakhstan. The Parliament will consider the proposal of the initiating group at its meeting to be held on 14 January.

The participating states will be duly informed about the results of the joint meeting of the chambers of Parliament of Kazakhstan.